

**Regular Session Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting
Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall
Monday, October 20, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Margot R. Fleischman, Chair, William S. Moonan, Caroline Fedele, Michael A. Rosenberg, Mark Siegenthaler, and Town Manager Richard T. Reed

ALSO PRESENT: Recreation Department Director, Amy Hamilton; Tom Mulligan, Robin Steele and Tara Capobianco, Recreation Commission; Finance Director, Victor Garofalo; Assistant Town Manager, Jessica Porter; Public Works Director, Roy Sorenson; Ben Thomas, Finance Committee; Jeff Cohen, Planning Board; Facilities Director, Taissir Alani; Joseph Piantedosi and James Shea, Depot Park Advisory Committee; Pino Colasante, owner of Colasante Salon; Ed Pierce, Abigail Siebert and Brad Hafer School Committee; Glenn McIntyre, Shawsheen Tech School Committee; Jim Clark, Elizabeth Cowles, Donald Drouin, Michelle Saber, Meredith McCulloch, Press Representative; Craig Kelly, Bedford TV

Chair Fleischman called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**15-85 Shawsheen Regional Technical High School Committee Appointment
Joint Meeting with the Bedford School Committee and Remaining
Member of the Shawsheen Technical High School Regional School
Committee**

The Selectmen and School Committee Board interviewed Donald Drouin for the vacancy on the Shawsheen Regional Technical High School Committee. Mr. Drouin served on the Committee for a period of 15 years and stated that it was a very enjoyable experience and he would be proud to serve on the Committee again.

Mr. Moonan asked if there was anything that could be done to increase the attendance of Bedford students at Shawsheen.

Mr. Drouin stated that there are currently only 22 Bedford students at Shawsheen. Mr. Drouin went on to say that it is a very highly ranked school across the nation and 97% of the graduating seniors go on to an institute of higher learning.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to appoint Donald Drouin to the Shawsheen Valley Technical School Committee with a term ending on March 14, 2015. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion. The School Committee also voted on this appointment.

The motion passed 9-0-0.

15-86 Committee Appointment Interview - Land Acquisition Committee

Ms. Fedele, the Selectmen liaison to the Land Acquisition Committee, stated that the applicant,

Mr. Richard Torti, had attended 2-3 Land Acquisition Committee meetings. Ms. Fedele outlined the role of the Committee: to plan and carry out any land acquisition projects that would potentially be beneficial to the Town of Bedford. Ms. Fedele stated that the Committee is charged with preserving the Town's natural resources and working with its citizens to provide fair agreements for land acquisition.

Ms. Fedele asked Mr. Torti if he had any questions about the Committee since attending the meetings. Mr. Torti inquired how the Town made its decision on which pieces of land to purchase. Ms. Fedele said the decision making process varied from situation to situation. Each situation presents different challenges and it is the Land Acquisition Committee's responsibility to act in the best interest of the Town.

At this time, Chair Fleischman explained the Open Meeting Law, the Conflict of Interest Law, and the Rules of Civil Discourse. She also encouraged Mr. Torti to consider taking on a leadership role as chair in the future.

Ms. Fedele made a motion to appoint Richard Torti to the Land Acquisition Committee for a term ending June 30, 2015. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

**15-87 Approval of Sunday Change of Hours for Package Stores
 JM Liquors and Lincoln Liquors**

Town Manager Richard Reed presented the Selectmen with an amendment to the hours of operation for two liquor stores in Bedford: Mall Liquors and JM Liquors. Mr. Reed stated that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission recently amended the state law so that establishments selling alcohol can now open at 10:00 am on Sundays. Mr. Reed went on to say that there is no choice at the local level but the Selectmen do need to recognize these changes to the business hours.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to accept the amended business hours for Mall Liquors at 170 Great Road and JM Liquors at 329 Great Road. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

15-88 Liljegren/Mudge Way Athletic Field Design

Public Works Director Roy Sorenson addressed the Selectmen to discuss athletic field designs for Liljegren and Mudge Way. Mr. Sorenson stated that at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, \$150,000 was appropriated through Community Preservation to install two natural turf athletic fields. At that time, the Public Works Department received a design quote of \$73,400 from Symmes Maini and McKee Associates (SMMA) for this project. Mr. Sorenson went on to say that some wetland remediation work would also need to be completed before this project got underway. The \$150,000 would cover both the design and wetland remediation projects if the Town opted for natural turf. In 2012, SMMA stated that if the Town decided to use artificial turf, the design cost would be approximately \$113,000. This would not be paid for through Community Preservation. Mr.

Sorenson estimated the figure for a design with artificial turf would rise to approximately \$120,000 in 2014. Mr. Sorenson estimated to design and install two natural turf fields would cost the Town \$1.4 million and that artificial turf would be close to \$3 million.

Chair Fleischman wondered about the usefulness of a turf field without lights and asked if installing lights at the new fields was being considered. Mr. Sorenson stated that was not included in the original design but could be added. Mr. Sorenson estimated that it would be an additional \$500,000 to light both fields. Chair Fleischman noted that she was not advocating for lighting the field.

Chair Fleischman asked what the life of an artificial turf field would be. Mr. Sorenson stated that Sabourin Field had a 10 – 12 year warranty and it would be \$300,000 to replace the carpet in the future.

After an extended discussion, the Selectmen concluded that they would stay with the original design for natural turf but they would like to get an estimate for lighting installation. Mr. Sorenson hoped to have an updated quote and contract for the Selectmen soon.

**15-89 Proposed Springs Brook Park Study Contract
 Beals & Thomas, Inc. – Southborough, MA**

Mr. Sorenson discussed the issue of water clarity at Springs Brook Park. This has been an ongoing issue at the Park for over 8 years. A clarity engineering study was conducted by Beals and Thomas, Inc. last year. The Public Works Department worked throughout the fall of 2013 to improve the water quality issues identified by the study. This past spring, an extensive clean-up was done to remove organic debris that had settled at the bottom of the pond. Mr. Sorenson noted that despite these efforts, water clarity remains an issue at Springs Brook Park.

The Recreation Department proposed installing a pool at Springs Brook Park which would eliminate any water clarity issues. Recreation Director Amy Hamilton stated that many of the people who go to Springs Brook Park are from outside of Bedford. Ms. Hamilton also noted that Springs Brook Park has been operating at a deficit for some time. Ms. Hamilton and other members of the Recreation Commission feel that installing a pool at this location would increase its use by local residents as well as people from surrounding communities. Ms. Hamilton also raised the concern for safety at Springs Brook Park. The lifeguards routinely drag through the water at the four foot level as they are not able to see the bottom of the pond and thus unable to see a person in distress.

Ms. Fedele stated that the Recreation Commission wants to see other changes and improvements at Springs Brook Park such as installing tennis and basketball courts and perhaps ice skating in the winter.

After an extensive discussion, it was decided that Mr. Sorenson would prepare a Request for Proposal bid for this project as soon as possible.

15-90 Depot Building Lease Approval - Colasante Hair Studio, Inc.

Joseph Piantedosi from the Depot Park Advisory Committee presented the Selectmen with a lease for the Colasante Hair Studio, Inc. Mr. Piantedosi stated that the owner, Pino Colasante, currently has a business located in the Bedford Marketplace.

Chair Fleischman asked Mr. Colasante if he had anything to discuss with the Selectmen. Mr. Colasante stated that his current business was located at the Bedford Marketplace which is experiencing major renovations at this time. Mr. Colasante stated that once the construction is complete, he would have to expand his business space which he deemed unnecessary. Mr. Colasante said he was very pleased with the Depot Park Building and feels it would be an ideal location for his business.

Mr. Colasante did raise a concern regarding parking. Currently many of the surrounding business have employees who park in front of the Depot Park Building thus limiting the spaces available for Depot Park customers. Mr. Colasante would like to see parking that is restricted to 2 hours in front of the Depot Park Building. Chair Fleischman concurred that this was an issue but noted that there was a municipal lot located behind the bicycle shop. Chair Fleischman indicated that proper signage might help alleviate this issue for the Depot Park Building occupants.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to approve a one year lease for Colasante Hair Studio, Inc. commencing on December 1, 2014 and ending on November 30, 2015 with an optional additional term of one year and one month for the period of time from December 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

15-91 National Citizen Survey Results

Assistant Town Manager Jessica Porter presented the Selectmen with the results from the National Citizen Survey. Mr. Reed stated that the last survey was conducted in 2009 and the Town Manager's Office wanted to see how the Town has changed and grown over the past five years.

Ms. Porter stated that 1,200 surveys were sent out this past spring. The recipients were chosen at random throughout four precincts in the Town. A total of 459 surveys were completed which provided the Town with statistically significant results to analyze. Ms. Porter outlined the four reports' findings for the Selectmen.

The first was a Dashboard Report which compares Bedford to other communities that participated in the National Citizens Survey. Bedford performed equal or better in 132 facets of community livability except for two facets which both relate to mobility: traffic flow and travel by public transportation.

Community Livability was the second report. Ninety percent of those surveyed rated the overall quality of life in Bedford as either excellent or good. Ninety-five percent of the respondents rated Bedford as either an excellent or a good place to live. The overall quality of Town services was rated as excellent or good by 88% of the respondents.

The next report, Trends over Time, explains in depth the changes between the 2009 and 2014 surveys. Ms. Porter noted that generally our ratings remained stable. There were two areas in which ratings were lower in 2014 as compared to 2009: Bedford as a place to retire and traffic flow throughout Town.

The last report, Comparison by Geographic Subgroups compared the ratings across the four districts that received the survey.

The Selectmen agreed that the results should be disseminated to the citizens of Bedford and to the Chairs of the various Committees within the Town. Mr. Reed stated that there would be a press release as well as a posting on the Town's website. Mr. Reed went on to say that his office would send copies of the survey results to the Chairs of the Town Committees.

**15-92 FY16 – FY21 Proposed Capital Projects Plan
 Review of Plan Submitted to Capital Expenditure Committee**

Mr. Reed addressed the Selectmen regarding the proposed Capital Projects Plan for Fiscal Years 2016–2021. Mr. Reed stated that the Town sought a better way to implement long term capital planning. Finance Director Victor Garofalo prepared a presentation to address this concern. Mr. Reed said that this information has been presented to the Capital Expenditure Committee on several occasions and most recently to the Finance Committee. It is Mr. Reed's hope that the Capital Expenditure Committee will have recommendations for Capital projects by the end of December.

Mr. Garofalo outlined the various funding sources available to the Town for Capital Projects such as Community Preservation, Bonding and Capital Articles. Mr. Garofalo proposed an increase to the tax levy of 2.5% starting in Fiscal Year 2016. Even with this increase, the debt ratio to budget would remain well below 10% with a steady decrease over the next five years.

Chair Fleischman thanked Mr. Garofalo for his hard work in preparing this information and stated that the ability to project out for five years made the job of identifying and planning much more manageable.

15-93 November 6, 2014 Special Town Meeting - Article Assignments

The Selectmen assigned the Articles to be presented at Special Town Meeting on November 6th noting that other Committees such as Finance and Community Preservation may take the lead in presenting some of the Articles.

**15-94 Miscellaneous Action Items
 One Day Special Alcohol License
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church – October 22, 2014
 EDCO Collaborative – October 27, 2014**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to grant a One Day Special Liquor License to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for October 22, 2014. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to grant a One Day Special Liquor License to EDCO Collaborative for October 27, 2014. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

**Chapter 268A, Section 20(b) Exemption
Heather Smiles – Teaching Assistant to Program Supervisor**

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to approve the waiver from Chapter 268A, Section 20 (b) for Heather Smiles. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

**Request for Special Event Temporary Sign
Boy Scout of America, Troop 114 – Annual Wreath Sale**

Mr. Reed explained that the Boy Scouts wished to display a sign for their Annual Wreath Sale. Mr. Reed stated that normally granting this request was within his discretion as Town Manager. However, the Boy Scouts requested the sign to be displayed for two weeks.

Chair Fleischman suggested the Boy Scouts display their sign for one week in one location and then move it to another location for another week. Upon further discussion, the Selectmen deemed this to be an acceptable compromise. No further action by the Selectmen was required as Mr. Reed is authorized to approve the request.

**15-95 Minutes - Executive Session Minutes – September 22, 2014
Regular Session Minutes – October 6, 2014**

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes from September 22, 2014 as amended. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to approve the Regular Session minutes from October 6, 2014 as amended. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

15-96 Town Manager's Report

Mr. Reed outlined the upcoming schedule for Selectmen's Meetings. They will be held on November 3rd, prior to Special Town Meeting on November 6th, November 17th, December 8th and December 22nd. Mr. Reed reminded the Selectmen that the meeting schedule will increase to once a week starting in January.

Mr. Reed noted that the Assessors will be having a Tax Classification Hearing on November 17th.

15-97 Open Discussion and Selectmen Liaison Reports

Mr. Rosenberg informed the Selectmen of ongoing litigation between the Town of Lincoln and Massport. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the Lincoln Conservation Commission approved an expansion of Jet Aviation using the state bylaw provision. A group of Lincoln citizens were unhappy with this ruling and stated it was subject to local wetland bylaws. Mr. Rosenberg went on to say that the expansion had already been rejected at one level and he would keep the Selectmen apprised of any developments.

Chair Fleischman informed the Selectmen that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan map was currently on the Town's website. Chair Fleischman stated that there would be an Open Public Workshop on November 12th with Toole Design. Chair Fleischman urged the Selectmen to visit the website and discuss it with the various groups they work with to increase the feedback for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining Strategy with the Bedford Police Officers Association and to not return to Regular Session. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The Selectmen were polled individually: Siegenthaler, aye, Rosenberg, aye, Moonan, aye, Fleischman, aye and Fedele, aye.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.